



Testimony of Goodwin College in Support of Proposed House Bill 5980 – An Act Extending the Boundaries of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA).

Planning & Development Committee Hearing – Friday, March 6, 2015

Goodwin College, a private non-profit higher education institution, located in East Hartford, CT with over 3500 students coming from 132 Connecticut cities and towns strongly supports Proposed H.B. 5980, An Act Extending the Boundaries of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA). Goodwin employs some 750 full and part-time employees and is a leading property tax payer in the Town of East Hartford.

Over the past few years Goodwin has become a significant property owner in the South End of Main Street both to support college operations and help advance pure economic development in the South Main Street area of town.

We believe that extending the reach of the CRDA as suggested by Mayor Marcia Leclerc is a prudent decision that will help address not only the current and future housing needs of Greater Hartford but also have a significant impact on commercial economic development in the town. Specifically the economic development potential of the parcel known as Rentschler Field is undeniable.

Regarding housing, last year Goodwin acquired the public housing property known as King Court from the East Hartford Housing Authority. The site is located adjacent to existing Goodwin-owned property. As part of the acquisition Goodwin agreed to maintain a minimum of 80 units of affordable housing. We believe that there is common ground in this area where mutual cooperation among the CRDA, the Town of East Hartford and Goodwin College can result in a development site that would provide for both affordable and market rate housing. The site is also convenient to public transportation as well as existing and future trails that would make Downtown Hartford accessible by both foot and bicycle.

Goodwin urges passage of Proposed H.B. 5980.

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